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Smallpox in Indiana.

[Telegram.]

EVANSVILLE, *March 1, 1898.*

One case smallpox in Evansville Saturday.

TABB,
*Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.**Smallpox infected vessel at San Francisco quarantine.*

[Telegram.]

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL., *February 28, 1898.*Steamer *Doric* quarantined on account of 1 death from smallpox.
Usual precautions.ROSENAU,
*Passed Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.**Smallpox in Cartersville, Ga.*BIRMINGHAM, ALA., *March 1, 1898.*

SIR: I have the honor to report the completion of my inspection of Cartersville, Ga., made in obedience to your telegraphic order of February 24.

Smallpox first appeared in Cartersville about January 15, having been introduced from Stilesboro, a village 10 miles distant, and to Stilesboro it was brought from Atlanta. Nine cases have been reported to date, all negroes with one exception, and 4 are now under treatment in a pesthouse located 2 miles from the city. One death has occurred.

The city officials in meeting the emergency have acted with unusual promptness and good judgment. A compulsory vaccination ordinance was passed, the town divided into five districts, and a physician appointed to each district to visit every house and vaccinate free of charge whenever necessary and 1,800 people have been vaccinated in this way (population of town, 3,000). The smallpox cases were isolated in this pesthouse under guard and infected clothing and houses fumigated with sulphur. No case has developed since February 22.

I advised a second house-to-house inspection, and disinfection of clothing and houses with bichloride solution (1-1000), the houses being too open and loosely constructed, in my opinion, for sulphuric fumigation to be of much value.

I was informed that about 200 cases of a disease, called "swinepox" by several local physicians, had occurred in the county (Bartow County), and was asked to visit some of them in order to determine the diagnosis. Eleven of these were examined by me, all of which are smallpox. The disease was brought to the county from Atlanta about November 1, and 2 deaths have occurred. Vaccination of school children is required by the school commissioners, but beyond this no action has been taken.

Very respectfully,

G. M. MAGRUDER,
*Passed Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.**Disease at Spartanburg, S. C., not smallpox.*WILMINGTON, N. C., *February 20, 1898.*

SIR: I have the honor to report that in obedience to telegraphic orders from Supervising Surgeon-General's Office, of February 14, 1898,

I proceeded to Spartanburg, S. C., arriving February 16, for the purpose of investigating certain cases of sickness supposed to be variola. I learned that the disease was confined to a settlement of mill hands employed by the Beaumont Manufacturing Company making cotton twine. The settlement, while within the corporate limits of the city, is about 1 mile from the center of the city, and consists entirely of employees of the mill, there being no other houses near by. The population of the settlement is about 250. The disease had been in progress about six weeks, 9 persons having been affected—6 adults, 2 boys, and a child six years old. Of this number, 4 have recovered and 5 were still suffering with the disease. The general history was as follows:

After slight prodromal symptoms there appeared a few red pimples, usually on arms and hands, and followed soon by same near angles of mouth and chin. These soon became vesicles, which in two to five days would pustulate. The disease involved the face, arms, and legs, and in some cases the back, the chest not being affected to any extent, nor was the throat usually invaded, though I saw the pustules on mucous membrane of lips; the back of the hands especially near the wrists being involved, and in some cases the palms of hands and soles of feet were invaded. No accurate history of the temperature was obtainable, but from statements of patients it was at no time high. The pustules varied in size, but averaged that of a split pea, were globular, about one-quarter inch high, showing no tendency to umbilicate; had a slightly inflamed base. Some were still vesicular, and patients stated had been so for from five to eight days. When broken formed rather thin yellow crusts, and dried up within ten to twenty days, leaving a discolored spot on the skin, but no pits. The constitutional disturbance was but slight, and patient felt quite well. There was none of the characteristic odor that attends smallpox.

It differed from smallpox in the following particulars: Absence of severe prodromal symptoms, severe headache, backache, and prostration. Appearance of eruption on wrists and arms, and then on chin before forehead. Absence of macular stage. Rapid pustulation after vesiculation, in some vesicles, and others remaining vesicles. General character of pustules, and absence of umbilication. Absence of severe involvement of throat. Absence of severe constitutional symptoms. Rapid course of disease. Absence of pits.

The disease resembled the descriptions of *impetigo contagiosa*, and the idea is still further carried out by the fact that all the persons attacked belonged to the night force of the mill, with two exceptions, and washed in the same basin, and wiped with the same towel, and could have in this way spread the contagion. The two exceptions mentioned above being a child of one of the night hands, and the other a young man who belongs to the day force, who had recovered, and it is questionable whether he had the same trouble as the rest, though he still had some pigmented spots on skin. There is no history of exposure to smallpox in any of the cases.

I am of the opinion that the disease is not smallpox, and that it is, more probably, *impetigo contagiosa*.

Respectfully, yours,

C. P. WERTENBAKER,
Passed Assistant Surgeon, U. S. M. H. S.